



Western States Clan MacLaren Society

SPRING/SUMMER 2021
Volume 6, Issue 2/3

The Scottish Thistle



ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 24

WSCMS is planning another Annual Meeting by Zoom. The meeting has been called by President Norm English for Friday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. Pacific time. Please put it on your calendar and plan to join us. We will be discussing and taking any needed action on present or future business. Please let Norm know if you have any items for consideration.

As last year, the uncertainty of the pandemic has caused us to keep our meeting online. The meeting would normally have been scheduled in conjunction with the Treasure Valley Highland Games and Festival in Idaho in September. But at the beginning of July, word was posted on the festival's Facebook page that the festival would not be held in 2021. So WSCMS is back to a virtual meeting. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to all current members by email closer to the date.



INFORMATION IN THIS ISSUE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE KNOWING ANY EFFECTS OF THE RECENT UPTURN IN COVID-19 ACTIVITY.

THIS ISSUE COMBINES SPRING AND SUMMER NEWSLETTERS.

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President's Message



Norm English



Hello Everyone!

Just as a roller-coaster goes up and down, around and around, and seemingly back again to where it started from, it seems like our lives have been tossed to and fro by this pandemic. But, as I write this, it appears that things are 'looking up' once again, with the easing of restrictions and safety protocols. It's about time!

I hope that all of you have been faring well throughout all this. Margaret and I are taking it day by day, and normalcy is gradually returning. Only recently, we were delighted to finally shop for groceries without wearing a mask. And did it ever feel good! Being fully vaccinated carries with it a feeling of freedom. No matter how you all feel about this issue, we felt liberated.

But the point of my message to you these days is this:

Let us emphasize what we are now able to do, not what we can't

We already find ourselves at the half-way point of 2021, and some Scottish festivals and events have already been held. Although some Northwest events are still in 'cancel mode,' there are some that will be held for the first time in a couple years. Specifically, the Kelso Festival will be held September 11-12 and the McMinnville Scottish Festival is the weekend of October 9-10. And am I ever ready! WSCMS will be having a tent at both festivals, and we hope many of you will plan on being there as well. Won't it be nice to once again gather to celebrate our Scottish heritage and interact 'face-to-face' after so long without that opportunity?

In addition, it is also time for us to gather for our annual meeting, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter. When we began our WSCMS organization back in 2015, we agreed to alternate between events in Oregon/Washington and the Treasure Valley Festival in Boise as a 'back-drop' for our annual meetings. But last year and this year, the pandemic interrupted that schedule. We plan to 'gather' on Friday, September 24, 2021 at 6:30 PM PDT to conduct our annual business meeting, and also use that time for visiting. Please plan on joining us. We'd love to see your faces once again.

In the meantime, let's continue to celebrate our Scottish roots and history. We have so much to take pride in!

Norm English – President

Highland Games Are Back!

This news is greatly welcomed: Highland Games are returning to some venues and so is WSCMS this fall. WSCMS is planning to set up a clan tent at two of these favorites. We have registered to be at both of these games listed here with a tent and chairs and our clan displays. Please join us at the clan area, and sit and stay awhile. We'd love to reconnect with everyone in a show of support for WSCMS.

If you know of other festivals that are back, especially if you plan to attend, let us know. Let's all support our fellow Scots.

Kelso Highlander Festival

The Kelso Highlander Festival will be held **Saturday and Sunday, September 11 and 12** at Tam O'Shanter Park in Kelso, Washington. The festival is unique in that it offers free admission to all. The athletes are on hand for their contests of strength and ability, as are Highland dancers and bagpipe bands.

The main ceremonies declaring the games open will begin at 12:30 p.m. The Fort Vancouver Pipe Band is scheduled to play at 1:15 at the picnic shelter. Many other Scottish musical entertainers are also usually featured at the picnic shelter. Along with the clan tents, there will be goods vendors of all types and food vendors with some popular Scottish choices.

The park has been improved since the last time the Games convened. The gravel access road along the athletic fields has been paved and improved with curbs and parking markings.

The city of Kelso gives support to the festival. You can find more about the festival at the city's website, here:

[Highlander Festival | City of Kelso](#)

MAC Scottish Festival

The McMinnville Scottish Festival will be held **Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10** at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. McMinnville, Oregon. The new location and fall date are as a result of changes due to the pandemic. Organizers have written that they expect to go back to their previous second weekend in June schedule in 2022.

The fairgrounds is a new site for the festival this fall. There will be more room to spread out and roam among the various vendors and activities, according to the festival website.

Besides the clan tents, the festival will include all the athletic games and contests. There will be bagpipe bands and other featured musical entertainment throughout both days. Goods vendors and Scottish and other festival food will also be offered.

The games are part of the umbrella organization of the Celtic Heritage Alliance. Find more information at their website here:

[MAC Scottish Festival – Celtic Heritage Alliance](#)

Other fall festivals

Inaugural Albany Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Albany, Oregon
Saturday, September 18

Elk Mountain Highland Games and Festival,
Rogue River, Oregon
Saturday and Sunday,
September 25 and 26



WSCMS members create harmony in pipe bands

Hearing the bagpipes at a Highland festival seems to set the scene. When the sound of the pipes rises in the air, Scots can't help feeling overjoyed by the music. Said one Scottish athlete, "I know when I hear the sound of the bagpipes, it gives me the energy to compete better."

Some members of WSCMS have taken their fondness for bagpipe music to the next level—not just listening, but playing in a band. Four WSCMS members who are in pipe bands in our Pacific Northwest are Karen and Pete Woodall and Tim and Penny McLaren.

Karen and Pete Woodall play for the Clan Macleay Pipes and Drums in Portland, Oregon. Karen plays the tenor drum and is band manager. Pete plays the side drum. He played military drums in his younger years in England where he grew up, but had not played in years after coming to the U.S. Karen encouraged Pete to take up drumming again in a pipe band, and then she, too, decided to take up the tenor drum after going to practices with Pete. They joined the Clan band in 2010.

The Clan band has been in existence for more than 100 years, making it one of the oldest continuing bagpipe bands in America. It was founded in Portland in about 1912, according to the band's history.

The band takes part in competition at games and festivals like the Portland Highland Games, as well as others around Oregon, Washington, and beyond. The group is also known as a top performance band. It has appeared in the Grand Floral Parade during Portland's Rose Festival for more than 75 years. It also was named as the honored "Chieftain" in 2016 at the Portland Highland Games. They have played at the launch of many a barge built by Portland's Gunderson Marine.

The band is one of only a few bands with uniforms featuring two tartans: the pipers wear the Royal Stuart tartan and the drummers wear the Hunting Stuart tartan.

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Pictured is the drum corps of the Clan Macleay Pipes and Drums, wearing the Hunting Stuart tartan and formal jackets. Karen Woodall, tenor drummer, is third from left. Pete Woodall, side drummer, is third from right.



WSCMS members create harmony...

...continued from page 4

Penny and Tim McLaren play with the Fort Vancouver Pipe Band in Vancouver, Washington. Penny plays tenor drum and is the band event coordinator. Tim plays the bagpipes and is a founding member of the band. Before the McLarens moved to the Pacific Northwest, Tim played in the Isle of Mull St. Andrews Pipe Band for several years, which was affiliated with the St. Andrews Society in Denver, Colorado.

The Fort Vancouver Pipe Band began in the year 2000 through the efforts of the first pipe major, Charles Anderson, and Tim joined the band with its formation. In the first year, the band had a few local pipers and two side drummers, but no tenor drummers. So Tim recruited Penny to learn the tenor drum. Both have been playing for the Fort band since then.

FVPB is a street band, rather than a competition band, and plays in support of military and emergency responder recognition events, appears in parades and at Highland games and festivals in the area, as well as other venues around Southwest Washington. When it formed, band members decided to wear the Washington State tartan, designed by a Scottish country dancer from Vancouver.

Watch for them playing at the Kelso and McMinnville festivals.



WSCMS members Tim and Penny McLaren perform with the band in January 2020. Tim is on the pipes, fourth from left. Penny is at the far right on the tenor drum. The band was performing at a fund-raising concert for the Vancouver winter homeless shelters, the band's only performance that year.

Bagpipes In History

Bagpipes are as uniquely Scottish as the tartans and kilts. However, bagpipes did not originate in Scotland. A Hittite sculpture that dates to 1000 BC appears to have an image of bagpipes, and archeologists found evidence of them in ancient Greece. According to Wikipedia, people have played bagpipes for centuries throughout Europe, Anatolia, the Caucasus, Northern Africa, Western Asia, around the Persian Gulf, and northern parts of South Asia. The bagpipes are referred to not only by different names, but vary in design and functioning.

Bagpipes associated with Scotland are known as the Great Highland Bagpipes. The evolution of these pipes is known to be more modern (1700) than the other types. No other country embraced this instrument as part of its identity as has Scotland.

The pipes may have arrived in Scotland through the influence of the Romans who occupied almost all of England, Wales, and for a short time southern Scotland from 43 to 410 AD. Pipes are mentioned in Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, written in 1380.

A history of the pipes by *Celtic Life* magazine says the first concrete evidence of "warpipes" being used in their traditional role on the battlefield comes from writings about the Battle of North Inch in 1396. In more recent centuries, the bagpipes were referred to as an instrument of war in Scotland because pipers led the troops into battle.

Bagpipes were played by Scottish regiments in recent wars, including in the Falklands Islands, out of which came the pipe tune "The Craggs of Tumbledown Mountain" and in Iraq and Afghanistan, out of which came the pipe tune "The Sands of Kuwait."

Celebrate Bagpipe Appreciation Day, July 27 every year.

Kara Patterson Winger is flag bearer at Olympics closing ceremonies in Tokyo

Kara Patterson Winger earned highest honors when her fellow Olympians voted her as the flag bearer for the closing ceremonies in Tokyo held August 8. It was a fitting accolade to a career in which she competed in javelin in four Olympics. Besides Tokyo this year, she was in Beijing in 2008, London in 2012, and Rio in 2016. Carrying the flag, she was quoted as saying, was “a dream I didn’t know to dream.”

“It’s an incredible honor to be selected by my fellow Team USA athletes to be our flag bearer,” she says. She also said that even though she had never made the finals nor won a medal, these Olympics proved the philosophy of the games was not winning, but taking part.

After the U.S. Olympics trials in Eugene, Oregon, Kara had the honor of being named the co-captain of the U.S. track and field team.

So all Pattersons, and by association all MacLarens, can be proud of her, representing as she does the bloodline of our Scottish ancestors.

She reached the semifinals in Tokyo and was very close to making the finals. Her throw of 59.71 m (196 feet) put her in 17th place at the end of the round. Only the top 12 moved on. She’s achieved longer and record throws, though. Up until the July U.S. trials, she was the javelin American record holder for a few years with a distance of 66.67 m (218 ft 8+3/4 in). In 2019 she took first in the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru with a throw of 64.92 m.

Kara is from the Western states, and WSCMS reported a year ago on her Olympic quest. She grew up in Vancouver, Washington. She was on the swimming and basketball teams, but wanted to have a spring sport so she started competing in javelin at age 15. She graduated from Skyview High School in 2004 and went on to compete in javelin at Purdue University. She was inducted into the Purdue Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. Her parents Rona and Bruce Patterson still live in the Pacific Northwest, and Kara now lives in Colorado with her husband. The family has traveled to the MacLaren area of Balquidder in Scotland in years past, and has proudly connected with the MacLaren name.

We may hear more about Kara, because she is not retiring from her sport quite yet. She plans to go to the World Championships scheduled in Eugene, Oregon, in July 2022. Maybe she could use a contingent of MacLarens to cheer her on there?



Photo credit: Ezra Shaw Getty Images

Patriotic and Patterson pride: Kara Winger carries the U.S. flag at the closing ceremonies of the Summer Olympics in Tokyo on Sunday, August 8.

The name Patterson is a sept of the MacLaren clan. Other spellings include Paterson, Pateson, Patinson, Patteson, Pattinson, and Pattison.

Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.

A non-stock, non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Idaho



Application for Membership

Full Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____
Please Print

Address: _____ **Preferred Phone #:** _____

City: _____ **State & Zip Code:** _____

E-mail Address: _____ **Spouse Name:** _____

Children's Names (Please Print)

Full Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Full Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Full Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Dues Structure of Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.

| <u>Individual</u> | <u>*Family</u> | <u>Annual</u> | <u>Enclosed</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Regular | _____ | _____ | \$10.00** | \$_DUES WAIVED FOR 2021_ |
|----------------|-------|-------|------------------|---------------------------------|

*Includes spouse & children under 18, provides one (1) vote on Society matters

**Membership year is January 1st through December 31st

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Send completed form to:

Western States Clan MacLaren Society
Tim McLaren, Membership Secretary
11314 NE 36th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98686

WSCMS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thanks for being a member of WSCMS. We hope you will share information about this group with others who want to get together with MacLarens in the western parts of the U.S. and Canada.

Have you changed any of your contact information? Email, phone number, address? If so, please send any of your updates to Tim McLaren, membership, by phone, email, or postal mail as listed at right.

Please contact Tim McLaren, via the contact information at right, if you would like him to send information to a prospective member, or if you have any questions. Dues are waived for 2021.



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***Western States
Clan MacLaren
Society, Inc.,***

***WSCMS, is a duly
registered non-
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***The Scottish Thistle
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